

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification, from page 13, line 4 on to line 22, starting with "The upper magnetic core layer 2...", as follows:

A1

"The upper magnetic core layer 2, fabricated of a magnetically soft material such as an Fe-Ni based alloy, includes, on the front end portion thereof, a narrow-width pole region 3 with its end face serving as the medium facing surface 16, and on the back portion thereof, a yoke york-region 4 in 5 continuity with the back end 3a of the pole region 3. The yoke york-region 4 has, on the front end portion thereof, a sloping surface 4a gradually rising from the back end 3a of the pole region 3 in a formation conformal to the shape of the second insulator layer 11 therebeneath. The distance from the back end 3a of the pole region 3 to the medium facing surface 16 defines the length of the 10 pole region 3. Referring to FIGS. 2 and 3, the width of the front end portion of the pole region 3 defines a track width Tw. Referring to FIG. 3, the yoke york region 4 as the back portion of the upper magnetic core layer 2 widens in the track width direction (i.e., in the X axis direction) as the yoke york-region 4 runs in the direction of height (represented by an arrow Y)."